Listing of Claims:

We CLAIM:

1. (Currently Amended) A friction material comprising a plurality of connected sections having an inner edge and an outer edge, and first and second sets of oil localization slots, ~~each connected section being defined by adjacent oil localization slots~~ being positioned in the friction material, the first set of oil localization slots radiating from ~~an~~ the inner edge of the friction material and the second set of oil localization slots radiating from ~~an~~ the outer edge of the friction material,

each oil localization slot having opposing sides that defines a reservoir which retains fluid in the oil localization slot when the friction material is formed into a circular shape~~.~~, each oil localization slot defining an opening at the edge of the friction material, the opposing sides diverge from the opening to define the reservoir.

2. (Previously Presented) The friction material of claim 1, wherein the oil localization slot has a retention side and a wiping side for retaining the fluid in the friction material.

3. (Original) The friction material of claim 1, at least one oil localization slot has a substantially tear drop shape.

4. (Original) The friction material of claim 1, wherein at least one oil localization slot has a substantially dovetail shape.

5. (Currently Amended) The friction material of claim 1, wherein a desired number of oil localization slots is determined by dividing 360° by a desired number of ~~connected sections~~ slots to give a desired number of oil localization slots.

6. (Cancel)

7. (Currently Amended) The friction material of claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of~~ the oil localization slots defines a first radially extending side which extends at a first angle from a first edge of the friction material and further defines a second, opposing radially extending side which extends at a second angle from the first edge of the friction material.

8. (Currently Amended) The friction material of claim 2, wherein ~~retention side and the wiping side of~~ the oil localization slots ~~define a groove, which groove is formed when the friction material is formed into the circular shape, the groove having~~ have a width that varies along the length of the sides of the ~~groove~~ slots and at the midpoint of the sides is determined by ~~an offset~~ a first distance D1 from opposing sides of the oil localization slot.

9. (Cancel)

10. (Original) The friction material of claim 8, wherein the distance D1 is measured from the opposing sides of the oil localization slot at an endpoint of each side.

11. (Currently Amended) The friction material of claim 8, ~~wherein the retaining side and the wiping side~~ of the oil localization slots each terminate at ~~opposing ends,~~

~~the ends defining~~ an opening having a width that is defined by a second distance D2, wherein the second distance D2 is shorter than the first distance D1.

12. (Currently Amended) The friction material of claim 1, wherein the number of oil localization slots is determined by a formula comprising: 360° divided by a desired number of ~~connected sections~~ slots to give a desired number of oil localization slots in the friction material.

13. (Currently Amended) The friction material of claim 1, wherein ~~at least one~~ the oil localization slot defines a closed end groove on the friction material.

14. (Currently Amended) An end use product for use with cooling fluid comprising:

a friction member having an outer surface;

a friction material adhered to the outer surface; the friction material comprising ~~having~~ a plurality of connected sections and first and second sets of oil localization slots, ~~each connected section being defined by adjacent oil localization slots~~ being positioned in the friction material, the first set of oil localization slots radiating from an inner edge of the friction material and the second set of oil localization slots radiating from an outer edge of the friction material,

each oil localization slot having opposing sides that define a reservoir which retains fluid in the oil localization slot when the friction material is formed into a desired shape~~.~~, each oil localization slot defining an opening at the inner or outer edge of the friction material, the opposing sides diverge from the opening to define the reservoir.

15. (Currently Amended) The end use product of claim 14, wherein ~~at least one~~ the oil localization slot ~~has~~ have a retention side and a wiping side for retaining the fluid in the friction material.

16. (Original) The end use product of claim 15, wherein at least one oil localization slot has a substantially tear drop shape.

17. (Original) The end use product of claim 14, wherein at least one oil localization slot has a substantially dovetail shape.

18. (Original) The end use product of claim 14, wherein the friction material has about 12 to about 16 oil localization slots.

19. (Cancel)

20. (Previously Presented) The end use product of claim 14, wherein each oil localization slot defines a first radially extending side which extends at a first angle from a first edge of the friction material and further defines a second, opposing radially extending side which extends at a second angle from the first edge of the friction material.

21. (Currently Amended) The end use product of claim 14, wherein ~~retention side and the wiping side of~~ the oil localization slots ~~define a groove, which groove is formed when the friction material is formed into the circular shape, the groove having~~ have a width that varies along the length of the sides of the ~~groove~~ slots and at the midpoint of the sides is determined by ~~an offset~~ a first distance D1 from opposing sides of the oil localization slot.

22. (Cancel)

23. (Original) The of claim 21, wherein the distance D1 is measured from the opposing sides of the oil localization slot at an endpoint of each side.

24. (Currently Amended) The end use product of claim ~~23~~ 21, wherein ~~the retaining side and the wiping side of~~ the oil localization slots each terminate at ~~opposing ends, the ends defining~~ an opening having a width that is defined by a second distance D2, wherein the second distance D2 is shorter than the first distance D1.

25. (Currently Amended) The end use product of claim 14, wherein the number of oil localization slots is determined by a formula comprising: 360° divided by a desired number of ~~connected sections~~ slots to give a desired number of oil localization slots in the friction material.

26. (Original) The end use product of claim 14, wherein at least one oil localization slot defines a closed end groove on the friction material.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for making an end use product having a friction member, including the steps of:

positioning on the friction member a supply of friction material, the friction material comprising a plurality of connected sections and first and second sets of oil localization slots~~, each connected section being defined by adjacent oil localization slots~~ in the friction material; the first set of oil localization slots radiating from an inner edge of the friction material and the second set of oil localization slots radiating from an outer edge of the friction material, the oil localization slots define an opening at the inner or

outer edge of the friction material and have opposing sidewalls that diverge from the opening to define a reservoir, and

applying a predetermined length of the oil localization slotted friction material to at least one side of the friction member.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further including forming the predetermined length of friction material into a circular shape before applying the predetermined length of friction material to at least one side of the friction member.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further including applying a supply of adhesive material to at least one of: a portion of one side of the friction member, or to a portion of the friction material, before applying the oil localization slotted friction material to the side of the friction member.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further including heating the friction member with the oil localization slotted friction material applied thereto for a suitable time at a suitable pressure to induce bonding of the slotted friction material to the friction member.

31. (Original) The end use product of claim14, comprising at least one of a power transmission-energy absorption assembly including clutches, brakes, automatic transmissions, limited slip differentials, hoists, synchronizers, circular bands, discs, clutches, and the like end use products.

32. (Previously Presented) The end use product of claim 21, wherein the end use product comprises at least one of a power transmission-energy absorption assembly including clutches, brakes, automatic transmissions, limited slip differentials, hoists, synchronizers, circular bands, discs, clutches, and the like end use products.

33. (Previously Presented) The friction material of claim 1, wherein each oil localization slot terminates at an apex the apex having a distal end which terminates at a preferred distance (H) from either the outer edge or the inner edge of the friction material, depending on which slot is being examined,

wherein the distance H defines a bridge section of the friction material; the bridge section extending between the distal end of the apex and either the outer edge or the inner edge.

34. (Currently Amended) The friction material of claim 33, wherein the distance H of one slot 20 measured from the outer edge of the friction material, extends beyond an adjacent distance H' on an adjacent slot 20' measured from the inner edge of the friction material.

35. (Currently Amended) The friction material of claim 33, wherein the apex has at least one of a substantially rounded, ~~or~~ circular, oval, or elliptical ~~and the like,~~ shape.